



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2022

No. 194

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COOPER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 14, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM COOPER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, it has been an incredible honor to serve the people of the great State of Georgia and the 10th District for the last four terms. This is my last time addressing you as fellow colleagues here from the House floor within these hallowed Halls of Congress.

There is no question the history and the marvel of this place, our Nation's capital, is something that never ceases to amaze me. I cannot express how

deeply grateful I am to have had the tremendous privilege to represent the 10th District of Georgia among the ranks of so many incredible men and women before me and to play a small role in shaping our Nation's history.

With God as my guide, I have set out in the last 8 years to not only represent Him well but to represent Georgia's 10th District and our country well.

I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to extend a heartfelt gratitude to many in my life who are so important and who have made these last 8 years so meaningful; certainly, my wife, Dee Dee.

We all know this is not an easy place for family, and I cannot express to her the deep love and appreciation I have for the incredible support that she has given me. Our two daughters, Anna and Sara, their husbands, and our four grandchildren as well, have stood by me, and us, through all of this so much, and I love and appreciate them more than words can say.

Our staff, both here in D.C., and in Georgia, have been among the best here in Congress. I say a heartfelt thank you for serving our constituents and for fighting our battles here in Washington with such integrity and honor. What a team you have been. You certainly have made me look better than I am, and I am deeply appreciative of that.

My colleagues here on both sides of the aisle, it has been an honor to serve, and I particularly express my gratitude and love for those fellow men and women within the Freedom Caucus whom I have come to love tremendously. It has been such an honor to serve with each of them, as well.

Obviously, without the guidance of God and my faith and those around me, we certainly would not have been able to accomplish many of the things we have been able to do here. But as a pastor prior to coming to Congress, my focus here so much has been on moral

matters; things like life, faith, and family, protecting the rights of Americans. Specifically, the right to freely worship without fear of intimidation of harassment has constantly been on the forefront of my life and continues to be. And although I am departing from this current post, I cannot stress enough the importance of those who will be here for the 118th Congress to continue fighting for the repeal of the Johnson amendment.

We all know that the First Amendment is for every American citizen, the right to speak, to uphold those beliefs in the public square. And certainly those beliefs, the epicenter of it, if you will, is certainly in churches and the centerpiece of that is in the pulpits. And our government has no right entering the pulpits of America determining what can and cannot be said. So I urge my colleagues to continue fighting that good battle.

Another piece of legislation that I introduced my very first year here was the sanctity of human life, which sought to declare that the most fundamental right that we have is the right to life. And I have introduced this bill, in fact, every Congress, every session since we have been here, and I look forward to being able to pass that on to those who continue the fight.

While it has been of utmost importance to focus on ending abortion, I also felt it is important to memorialize the 63 million lives that have been lost. That is why I introduced a bill to instruct that the United States flag be flown at half-staff on January 22 of each year in honor of the unborn who have lost their lives.

If we ever forget history, it is bound to repeat itself, and if we, God willing, see the end of abortion, we need to likewise remember those who have given their lives, the innocent, in this struggle, in this battle.

At the heart of it all, it is my prayer that our country will see a spiritual

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H9731